

## II. Amendments

### In the Claims

Please cancel claim 18 without prejudice to reintroduction of claim 18 in a subsequent application.

Please amend claims 2 and 19–31 as follows:

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that [an unpigmented, white or color pigmented] a coating [which may additionally be densified (supercalendered) and optionally be provided with a paint coating] is provided immediately below the top coating.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim [1] 18, characterized in that the paper substrate is selected from the group consisting of a fibrous web, a surface-treated fibrous web, a coated fibrous web which [may optionally be treated and/or metal-coated below its coating, or a metal-coated fibrous web which may optionally be treated and/or coated below its metal coating,] is treated with laser energy at its surface.

20. (Amended) The method according to claim [20] 19, characterized in that said [optionally] surface-treated fibrous web is coated with [an unpigmented, white or color pigmented] a coating [which may additionally be densified (supercalendered) and optionally be provided with a paint coating] selected from the group consisting of unpigmented, white and color pigmented coatings.

21. (Amended) The method according to claim [1] 19, characterized in that the surface of [a] the fibrous web is treated with laser energy, and at least one further coating which

is selected from the group consisting of printing, paint coating and metal coating is applied to the surface which has been treated with laser energy.

22. (Amended) The method according to claim [1] 19, characterized in that the surface of the fibrous web is treated with laser energy, the surface treated with laser energy is metal-coated, and then a [printing and/or paint] coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied to the metal-coated surface.

23. (Amended) The method according to claim [1] 19, characterized in that the metal-coated surface of [a] the fibrous web[, optionally after applying a paint coating or printing,] is treated with laser energy, and then a [printing and/or paint] coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied to the surface which has been treated with laser energy.

24. (Amended) The method according to claim [1] 19, characterized in that the surface of [a] the fibrous web which is provided with a coating selected from the group consisting of unpigmented, white or color pigmented coatings is treated with laser energy, and then a [printing and/or paint] coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied to the surface which has been treated with laser energy.

25. (Amended) The method according to claim [1] 19, characterized in that the surface of [a] the fibrous web which is provided with a coating selected from the group consisting of unpigmented, white [or] and color pigmented coatings is treated with laser energy, the surface treated with laser energy is metal-coated, and then a [printing and/or paint] coating

selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied to the metal-coated surface.

26. (Amended) The method according to claim [2] 19, characterized in that the surface of [a] the fibrous web which is provided with a coating selected from the group consisting of unpigmented, white or color pigmented coatings is treated with laser energy, the surface treated with laser energy is metal-coated, and then a [printing and/or paint] coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied to the metal-coated surface.

27. (Amended) The method according to claim [1] 19, characterized in that the surface of [a] the fibrous web is treated with laser energy, the surface treated with laser energy is provided with a coating selected from the group consisting of unpigmented, white or color pigmented coatings, and then a [printing and/or paint] coating selected from the group consisting of printing and paint coating is applied.

28. (Amended) The method according to claim [1] 19, characterized in that said fibrous web is transparent, opaque, white or colored[, and optionally has been surface-treated].

29. (Amended) The method according to claim [1] 19, characterized in that said coating of the fibrous web is an unpigmented, white or color pigmented coating [which may additionally be densified (supercalendered) and may additionally be provided with a paint coating].